International Relations, Security and Europe

Lecture 1

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Venue: C206, Turība University, Rīga, Latvia

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NON SCHOLAE SED VITAE DISCIMUS

TAL TECH

Why this lecture?

Due to a certain degree of complexity, we need to establish that we – those who try to understand the actuality through the multi-faceted prism of social sciences – are on the same page in the process of defining 'international relations', 'security', and, 'Europe'.

1. International Relations: resembling a bazaar…

IR as a process and an academic discipline: the 'juicy' part of this process belongs to decisions that were made and consequences of those decisions that the world experienced. A high number of countries, nations, organisations and their institutions are heavily involved into the process. However, every day we are having many chances to get ourselves reminded that those two words – international relations – are integral part of a much broader concept – political science. In addition, certainly, the phenomenon of modern diplomacy was very much linked to that process as well.

War and Peace…

Different political regimes (from all sizes of the spectrum), diplomats and policymakers of very different levels of capabilities, transparency and absolute opacity – these are what 'international relations' are all about. War and peace are distinguishing features of international relations. War and peace are consequences of diplomatic activity. War and peace are what we study in the field.
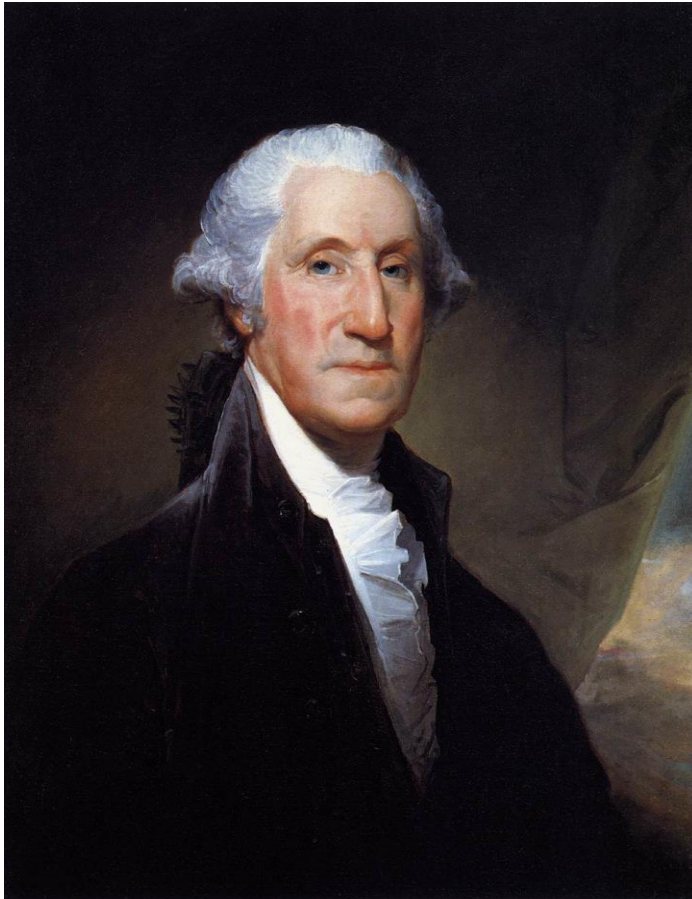
War and Peace…

Making a difference … Talleyrand and Atatürk

Making a difference … Washington and Lee

2. One of the field's academic-n-practical concerns is 'international security'… Aiming for 'collective security'…

From the practical (as well as normative) point of view, we can talk about 'security' visualising its ultimate goal – collective security. This is something that the UN – when it was getting designed – was aiming at achieving… The very name of the UN Security Council underscores the prime importance of collective security for the UN members. As university scholars and students we need to understand that the common sense and appealing simplicity of the logic to have collective security can be contrasted with the difficulties of its application.
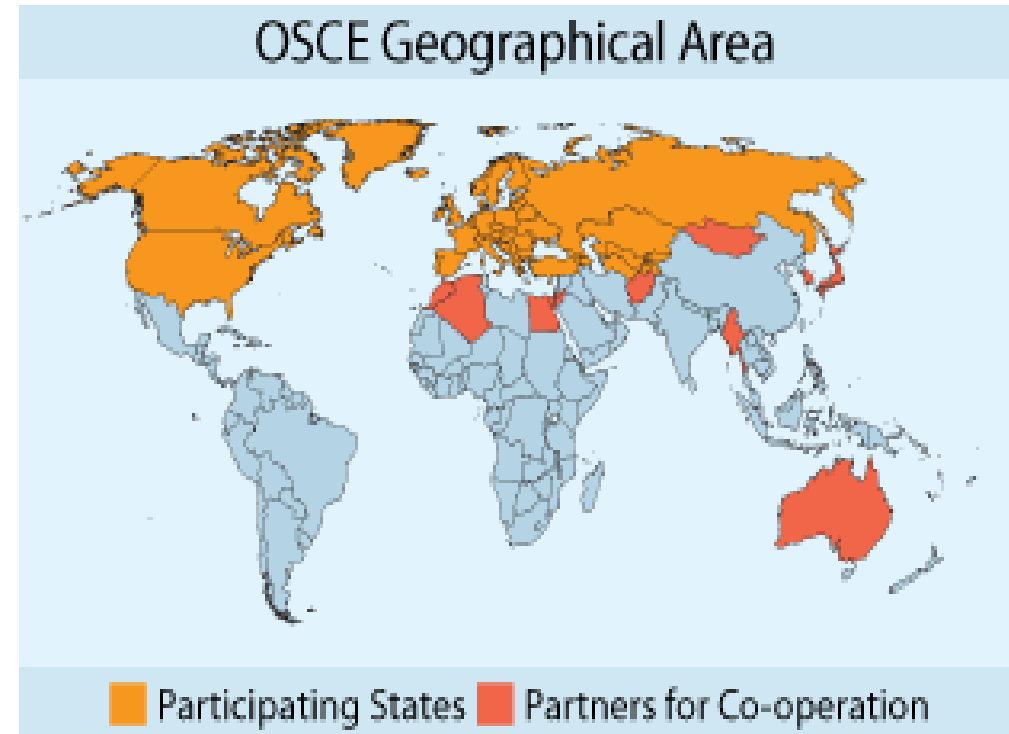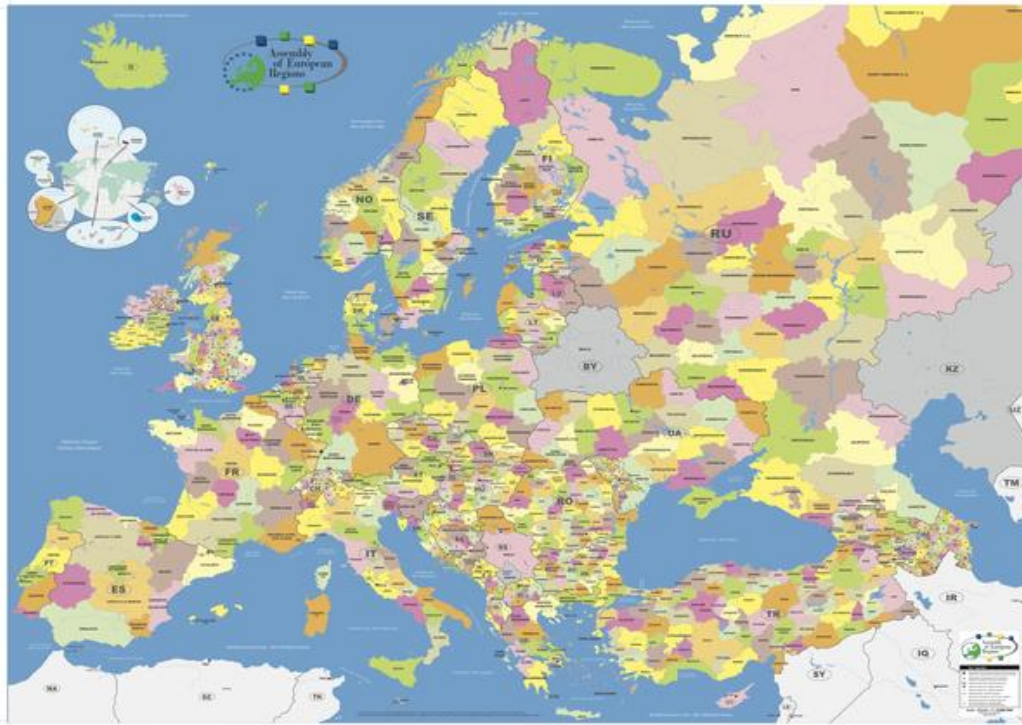
Why 'collective security' is not a possibility…

- Friends and enemies are already chosen;
- The problem of power;
- Collective security costs;
- Are all victims equally important?

3. What is 'Europe'?

What is 'Europe'?

4. The 'framework – relationships' paradigm

- EU
- Non-EU West
- EU NATO Members
- Non-EU NATO Members
- Non-NATO West
- East
- Russia
- Turkey
- OSCE
- Council of Europe
- The BRI (including 16+1)

- Integration
- Conflicts: open, frozen, latent
- Military alliances
- Inclusive partnerships
- Hybrid war
- Economic alliances
- Situative partnership
- A contemporary political empire
- An empire in the making
- Political alliances

5. The question of 'International System'

Westphalia, 1648

League of Nations, 1919

Vienna Congress, 1815

United Nations, 1945

Pre-UN 'International System'… Reading Nick Bisley's '*Great Powers in the changing international order*'

Westphalia: "The creation of international system where the key elements were comprised of territorially defined sovereign entities was firmly established by the mid-eighteenth century." – p. 23

Vienna Congress: "[…] British lawyer T.J. Lawrence argued that the great powers had, through their Viennese settlement, essentially killed off the principle of sovereign equality […]." – p. 26

"Vienna worked not simply because of smart diplomacy and a particular judicious division of power, but because it served a particular moral and political purpose." – p. 41

League of Nations: "[Its] problems were not caused by neglect of the realities of power so much as they derived from the inability of the peacemakers to devise a means to harness power to order." – p. 48

"[…] [T]he Paris [1919] negotiations also broke with a central principle of conference diplomacy. The defeated powers were not invited to participate." – p. 50

"The lesson of the League was […] painfully obvious: without great powers, no institutional or legal management of international order was going to work." – p. 61

UN-based 'International System'… Reading S.M. Plokhy's '*Yalta: the price of peace*'

Stalin: "It is ridiculous to believe that Albania would have an equal voice with the three great powers who had won the war".

Roosevelt: "The great powers bore the greater responsibility … and the peace should be written by the Three Powers represented at the table."

Churchill: "The great nations of the world should discharge to their moral responsibility and leadership and should exercise their power with moderation and great respect for the rights of the smaller nations."

UN-based 'International System'… Reading Nick Bisley's '*Great Powers in the changing international order*'

"As Dwight Lee puts it, "The attitude toward the organisation by the Sponsoring Governments was that peace and security could only be achieved by the great powers acting as a unit". – p. 68

"As Andrey Gromyko, a Soviet representative, puts it, "If the problem of peace is to be solved, there must be mutual trust and harmony among the greatest world powers, and they must act in harmony." – p. 72

"The Indian delegate emphasised […]: "It seems to me that we are really asked to do an act of faith in signing this Charter. It begins with a faith that the permanent members [are] peace loving and will continue to be peace loving. It is only on that faith we can proceed in establishing this charter." – p. 75

"As a result, the most important relationship [US-USSR] in post-war international security **was not part of the UN Security Council's business**." – p. 79

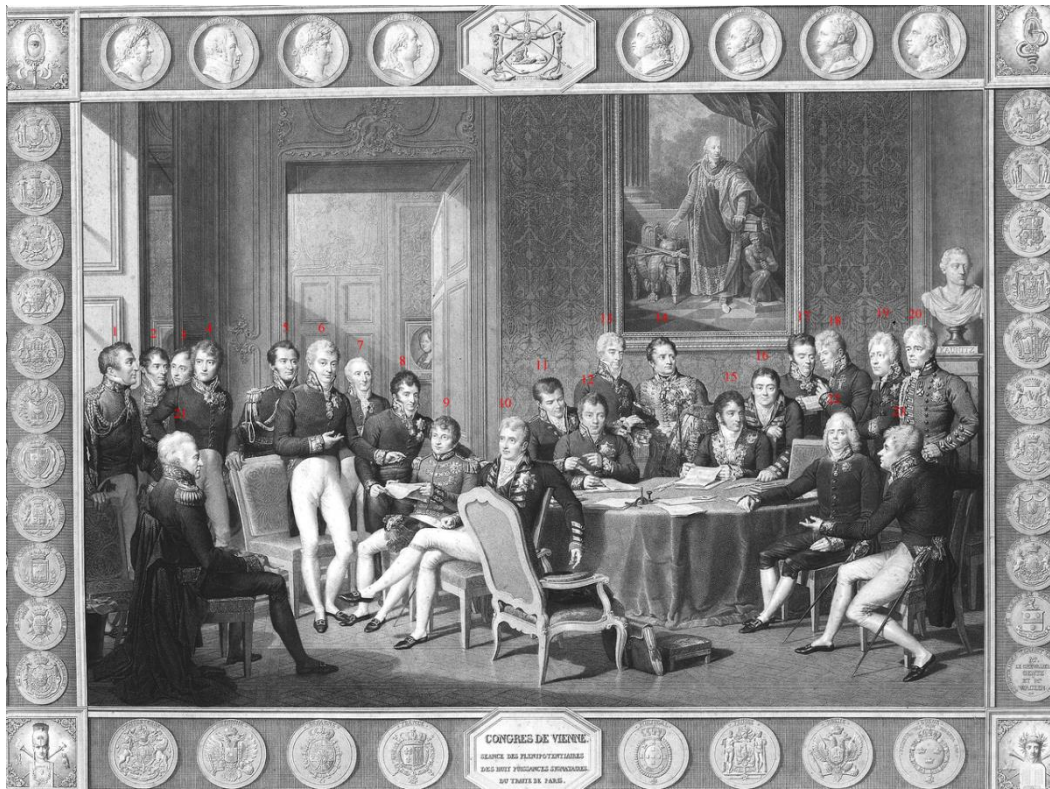# 2014-… (Donetsk)

2014-… (Syria and Boko Haram)

From Westphalia to the UN

Via Vienna and the League of Nations

A world order? Yeah, right!

When asking: "Is the world moving toward a new international order", it is implicitly assumed that there really was some kind of world order in place, which now is possibly being replaced by a new one. My personal impression, however, is that there never was much of a world order in the first place, so that one could fairly ask instead: "Is the world moving from one mode of international disorder towards another", to which I personally would answer in one word: YES.

Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga, the sixth President of Latvia

Image library

Images are available from:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mustafa_Kemal_Atat%C3%BCrk

http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles-Maurice_de_Talleyrand-P%C3%A9rigord

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